been reported by the concerned authorities for non-fulfilment of export obligations by 100% EOUs. Investigations have been completed in 91 cases and show cause notices under the provisions of the Imports & Exports (Control) Act and Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, have been issued.

Export of Iron-Ore

10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exported iron-ore in the year 1994-95 and during the first sixth months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount of iron-ore exported during this period; and

(c) what is the total import of iron-ore during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The total export and import of' iron-ore during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-August' 95 is as under:

Qty: *in lakh tonnes*

Year	*Exports*	*Imports*
1994-95 1995-96 (April-August)	252.15 135.65	15 23 N.A.

N.A. = Not Available SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Prices of Essential Commodities

11. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 101 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1995 and state the increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities in the country during the period from 1st May to 30th July, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): Percentage variations in the Wholesale Price indices of selected essential commodities during May, 1995 to July, 1995 are as under:

Commodity	*Percentage Variation*
Rice	+ 3.6
Wheat	- 3.6
Gram	8.3
Arhar	+ 21.0
Potatoes	+ 71.9
Onions	+ 58.2
Tea	+ 38.4
Sugar	+ 0.9
Salt	+ 32.6
Vanaspati	- 0.8
Groundnut Oil	+ 2.3
Mustard Oil	- 1.3
All Commodities	+ *2.0*

Duty Free Trade and Commerce Among SAARC Countries

12. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved till now to have duty-free trade and commerce among the SAARC countries;

(b) the total loss of annual anticipated revenue following the full implementation of the proposal; and

(c) the likely impact on India's balance of trade in the wake of such implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in DhaVa All the